THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) No. sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Ministry of Science and Technology has two major programmes, namely, Technopreneur Promotion Programme (TePP) and National Innovation Foundation for helping individual and grassroots innovators in consolidating their inventions and also extend help to their possible conversion into commercialisable technologies.

Reforms by Sports Federations

4427.SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Sports Minister has taken a firm stand on accountability in sports and asked the national federations to fix responsibilities and set penalties;

(b) if so, whether the Minister has started discussing such issues with various sports persons;

(c) what are the reforms that the Minister has proposed to be undertaken by the sports federations; and

(d) to what extent the sports federations have agreed to the suggestions made by the Union Minister ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) The Government provides financial assistance to recognized NSFs as per the provisions contained in the "Guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations(NSF)". To be eligible for assistance, the NSFs are required to follow proper democratic and healthy management practices which provide for greater accountability and transparency at all levels, have proper accounting procedures at all levels and produce annual financial statements. Moreover, NSFs are also required to submit audited statements of accounts related to the event for which financial assistance is provided along-with performance report.

For considering the proposals for recognition, there are some laid down criteria such as the current legal status of the organization, recognition by

International Federation and Indian Olympic Association (IOA), its all India spread, internal financial and management practices and standards, electoral practices etc. The Guidelines also provide for suspension and de-recognition of NSFs in the event of serious irregularities.

Apart from above, the Government is also considering formulation of a Model Code of Conduct for NSFs. The suggestions of NSFs will also be invited as and when the Model Code of Conduct is finalized.

Ban on Sports Sponsorships by Cigarette Companies

4428. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to ban Cigarette Company's sponsorships in all sports organisations;

(b) if so, the details of its impact on Sports Organisations;

(c) whether Government are considering alternatives to the sponsorships; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the adverse impact of tobacco on health, and, with a view to discourage use of tobacco products, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has introduced an anti-tobacco legislation Bill, "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001 on 7-3-2001 in the Rajya Sabha.

There may be shortfall in sponsorship of sporting activities in the immediate future due to decision to ban sponsorships by Cigarette Companies.

(c) and (d) Government will explore the possibility of locating alternative sponsors to fill the void in financial support to Indian Sports. Besides, major events will be organized through professional agencies to supplement Government's efforts.